

Nevada State Candida Auris Toolkit

What is *Candida auris* and why is it important?

The emerging fungus *Candida auris* (*C. auris*) presents a serious global health threat. *C. auris* is a public health concern due to its potential for multi-drug resistance and ability to spread in healthcare settings. Hospitalized patients with *C. auris* infections were associated with 30-60% mortality rates. Click [here](#) to see the latest national information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Proactively healthcare facilities should implement early identification, communication, and implementation of infection control measures to maintain their staff and patients' safety.

People can be *C. auris* carrier and may not have any symptoms, they might be admitted to a healthcare facility with another medical condition and often have risk factors such as mechanical ventilation, tracheostomy, invasive medical devices. *C. auris* outbreaks have been documented in healthcare facilities and can spread through contact with infected patients and contaminated surfaces or equipment. Source: [CDC](#)

Candida auris identification and Infection Control Recommendations

The effective method to prevent the spread of *C. auris in healthcare setting* is strict adherence to infection control activities. Appropriate environmental cleaning and disinfection is important to eliminate transmission and exposure risk. Some disinfectants commonly used in healthcare settings are not effective against *C. auris*. Click [here](#) to see the EPA's registered antimicrobial products effective against *C. auris*. Click [here](#) for CDC guidance on infection control activities for *C. auris*.

Reporting

Report cases of *C. auris* infection and colonization to the HAI Program by sending a secure email to outbreak@health.nv.gov. If secure email is not available, please fax 702-486-0490. HAI Program staff can assist with screening supplies and an onsite assessment to help identify new cases of *C. auris* and identify gaps in infection prevention and control practices.

Laboratory Detection and Procedure for collection

[Identification of *Candida auris*](#)

[Procedure for collection of patient swabs for *Candida auris*](#)

[Candida auris - Information for Laboratory Staff](#)

[Safety Considerations When Working with Known or Suspected Isolates of *Candida auris*](#)

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Resources

[What is *Candida auris*?](#)

[Candida auris Colonization Explained](#)

[Candida auris Testing Explained \(Patient Perspective\)](#)

[Candida auris - CDC Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations](#)

[Candida auris - Information for Infection Preventionists](#)

[Interim Guidance for a Public Health Response to Contain Novel or Targeted Multidrug-resistant Organisms \(MDROs\)](#)

[Enhanced Barrier FAQs](#)

[Hand Hygiene FAQ](#)

CDC Information for Laboratorians and Health Professionals: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/health-professionals.html>

CDC Information for Patients and Family Members: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/patients-qa.html>

Additional Resources

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [Environmental Cleaning List P](#)

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC)

[Break the Chain of Infection](#)

[Infection Prevention and You - Long-Term Care](#)

[Infection Prevention and You - Keep the Patient's Room Clean](#)

General Infection Control Strategies

	HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS	PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS
Laboratory Identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the yeast identification method used by your laboratory and its limitations for <i>C. auris</i> identification. Candida auris: A drug-resistant fungus that spreads in healthcare facilities - A CDC message to laboratory staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For further assistance contact outbreak@health.nv.gov
Surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin surveillance. Establish a protocol with your laboratory so that your department is promptly informed when <i>C. auris</i> is suspected. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If your laboratory is not equipped to identify <i>C. auris</i>, begin surveillance for the organisms that commonly represent a <i>C. auris</i> misidentification. See https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/recommendations for common misidentifications by different yeast identification methods. https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/candida-auris/c-auris-screening.html 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the local epidemiology and prevalence in your region. Understand patient risk factors and high-risk settings, such as indwelling medical devices in patients residing in high acuity long-term care facilities
Screening for Candida auris Colonization	<p>Consider screening patients who are at high risk for <i>C. auris</i>, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close healthcare contacts of patients with newly identified <i>C. auris</i> infection or colonization. Patients who have had an overnight stay in a healthcare facility outside the United States in the previous one year, especially if in a country with documented <i>C. auris</i> cases. Strongly consider screening when patients have had such inpatient healthcare exposures outside the United States and have infection or colonization with carbapenemase-producing Gram-negative bacteria. <i>C. auris</i> co-colonization with these organisms has been observed regularly. <p>For further information: Screening for Candida auris Colonization Candida auris Fungal Diseases CDC</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For further assistance contact outbreak@health.nv.gov
Infection Control Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place patients with <i>C. auris</i> in a single room and implement Standard and Contact Precautions or enhanced barrier precautions. Reinforce standard hand hygiene practices for all healthcare personnel. Daily and terminal cleaning with an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) registered hospital-grade disinfectant effective against <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> spores (List K or EPA's List P). Regardless of the product selected, it is important to follow all manufacturer's directions for use, including applying the product for the correct contact time. Educate all healthcare personnel, including healthcare personnel who work with environmental cleaning services, about <i>C. auris</i> and the need for appropriate precautions. Follow-up education may be needed to reinforce concepts and to account for healthcare personnel turnover and guidance updates. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand and recommend infection control measures for patients colonized or infected with <i>C. auris</i>, including Standard and Contact Precautions Conduct a site visit when necessary and assess implementation of infection control strategies. For further assistance contact outbreak@health.nv.gov

General Infection Control Strategies

	HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS	PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure adequate supplies are available to implement infection control measures. Infection Prevention and Control for Candida auris Candida auris Fungal Diseases CDC 	
Environmental Cleaning	<p>Ensure and audit thorough daily and terminal environment cleaning of patient care environment and reusable equipment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focus on high-touch surfaces or any shared patient equipment. CDC recommends use of an EPA registered hospital-grade disinfectant effective against <i>Clostridioides difficile</i> spores (List K, or EPA's List P) Daily and terminal cleaning of patient environment using a List K, or EPA's List P product. Regardless of the product selected, it is important to follow all manufacturer's directions for use, including applying the product for the correct contact time. Infection Prevention and Control for Candida auris Candida auris Fungal Diseases CDC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a site visit when necessary to assess appropriateness and adequacy of environmental cleaning measures. For further assistance contact outbreak@health.nv.gov
Adherence Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on your facility policy use adherence monitoring tools to assess and track provider adherence to infection control measures. Monitoring adherence and providing feedback to staff are critical to sustained implementation of infection prevention measures. 	
Interfacility Communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When transferring a patient or resident with <i>C. auris</i> colonization or infection to another facility, make sure to notify the receiving facility of patient's <i>C. auris</i> infection or colonization status, including recommended infection control precautions. Use the HAI Program interfacility transfer form during all patient or resident transfers available via Nevada state link. Nevada state Inter-facility Transfer Form 	
Antimicrobial Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the appropriateness of antibiotics, especially antifungals, and discontinue them when not needed as this practice may help prevent <i>C. auris</i> colonization and infection. Treatment and Management of Infections and Colonization Candida auris Fungal Diseases CDC 	

Education and Training:

- Multidrug-resistant *Candida auris*: Update on Current U.S. Epidemiology, Clinical Profile, Management, and Control Strategies

https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/ppt/2019/slides_062019_C-auris.pdf (slides)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzY0FPvKtfc> (recording)

- CDC/CDPH C. auris in Long-Term Care Facilities Webinar:
[C auris and other novel MDRO prevention in LTCFs webinar slides](#) (slides)
HshareWebinarCombined_ADA_121020.pdf (slides) <https://youtu.be/5ulpo7wi6xk> (recording)